

By Georgeanne Cooper

Remembering JQ

He was always on time for our meetings. I would see his wild, curly hair bouncing atop the screen I had placed on the windows of my office. I didn't want to be on display. He would sit down in the rocking chair my daughter Cass made for me as a Mother's Day present and we would catch up with each other before getting down to business.

JQ was so excited and supportive about how we (The Center for Media and Educational Technology and our Teaching Effectiveness Program) wanted to collaboratively help faculty into the age of using educational technology in their teaching. And this enthusiasm was always tempered with our reserve about the limitations of technology and the belief that it should never drive good teaching decisions.

JQ always found funds and equipment to support our efforts when TEP could only offer our expertise, creativity and organizational abilities. We planned and implemented our programs together in what was always a productive, respectful and very satisfying and successful experience for all of us. It was a pleasure working with him.

He was an important mentor for my then new colleague, Michael Sweet. Michael came to our program with great enthusiasm and limited experience in faculty development. From my perspective he was a kid, just 25. But he was smart, intuitive and a quick study. JQ was generous with his time and expertise and it didn't take long for Michael to blossom. Now Michael is the director of a similar and much larger program at UT Austin, the JQ to so many younger staff members.

As the years went by I was less involved with educational technology and didn't see much of JQ in last several years. I missed that connection. However, he continued to work closely with TEP staff members specializing in this area.

Most of us will never truly know how we have impacted the lives of others. We don't tell each other often enough and it feels good to hear that once in awhile. Thank you, JQ.

Georgeanne Cooper, former director of the Teaching Effectiveness Program